

SYNOPSIS OF EPISODE 14 "THE DESERT ISLAND or "THE FIRE TEST"

Written by Hopalong & Joe Brandt Directed by Luke Stone

When Ann and Robert jump from the steamer, John wants to carry the pursuit to shore but Baxter stops him and says it is the very best thing that could have happened for them; that they will reach the island first as Robert and Ann will be unable to find another means of transportation. But after Ann and Robert have rejoined Tarka on the docks, they find a captain of a schooner who agrees to take them to Tokina as he has a cargo of oil to be delivered to some island south of there. So, again Ann, Robert and Tarka start for Tokina. But, just as they have sighted the island, the cargo of oil catches fire and in the explosion which follows the three of them are hurled far into the water. The captain of the steamer has made several other stops so that it is only the same day that Baxter and John are put ashore Tokina in a small boat. They decide to make camp for night is almost upon them. Early the next morning, they start across the island in search of the treasure. They meet and win the confidence of Chief Mola. But they also learn that the natives have come to worship the treasure chest as their God of Luck and that they will probably refuse to part with it. Mola also adds that he has lost favor with the tribe and that the High Priest has more authority, especially now, as it is the period of the Festival of the Treasure Chest. But Mola promises to help them and they all start for the native village. Meanwhile Ann, Robert and Tarka have been washed ashore on another part of the Island and they also start across the island in search of the treasure. Mola introduces Baxter and John to the tribe as "white gods" who have come to see how the tribe cares for the Treasure Chest. As the fanatical ceremony is going on, Ann, Robert and Tarka are brought into the village by an Indian guard. The medicine man hails Ann as the "White Goddess" but insists upon subjecting her to a test that will prove her right to rule over them. Robert and Tarka are taken as prisoners and are forced to watch as Ann is subjected to the test. Baxter and John watch with glee, feeling sure that Ann will meet her death. She is lashed between two ropes, suspended between two trees, over a fire. The ropes at her head and feet are set afire. If the rope at her head burns through first, her head will fall into the flames, but if the rope at her feet burns first

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Then she will swim down out of harm's way and thus be declared by the native gods to be immortal and fit to rule the tribe. The natives, John, Baxter, Robert and Tarka all watch breathlessly as the ropes are set afire and the test begins.

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